

CLAIMS:

1. A screwdriver comprising:
 - a handle;
 - a pair of elongated members having a proximal and distal end, wherein the elongated members are coupled together at their proximal ends within the handle, and wherein the distal ends form a combined drive tip;
 - a movable sleeve disposed over the elongated members such that when the sleeve is retracted proximally, the drive tips on the elongated members align with one another and when the movable sleeve is extended distally, the drive tips on the elongated members overlap one another; and
 - a retaining member, the retaining member preventing the movable sleeve from distally extending a particular distance away from the handle.
2. The screwdriver of claim 1 wherein the retaining member includes two retaining ridges, one retaining ridge is positioned on the movable sleeve and another retaining ridge is positioned on the handle.
3. The screwdriver of claim 1 wherein the retaining member electrically insulates all portions of the elongated members disposed between the movable sleeve and the handle.

4. The screwdriver of claim 1 wherein the handle includes a hollow cavity with a tapered entrance, and wherein the retaining member includes a recessable portion and a retaining ridge, and wherein the recessable portion is shaped to pass through the tapered entrance and move within the hollow cavity, and wherein the retaining ridge is shaped to be obstructed by the tapered entrance but be able to move within the hollow cavity.

5. The screwdriver of claim 1 wherein one of the retaining members remains within the handle when the movable sleeve is retracted proximally and extended distally.

6. The screwdriver of claim 1 wherein the screwdriver is useful in high voltage applications.

7. The screwdriver of claim 1 wherein the combined drive tip forms a straight-slot screwdriver drive tip when the sleeve is retracted against the handle.

8. The screwdriver of claim 1 wherein the elongated members are welded together at their proximal ends at a location corresponding to the handle.

9. A screwdriver comprising:

a handle;

a pair of elongated members having a proximal and distal end, wherein the elongated members are coupled together at their proximal ends within the handle, and wherein the distal ends form a combined drive tip;

a movable sleeve disposed over the elongated members such that when the sleeve is retracted proximally, the drive tips on the elongated members separate from one another and when the movable sleeve is extended distally, the drive tips on the elongated members overlap one another; and

at least one retaining member coupled to one of the handle and the movable sleeve, wherein the at least one retaining member electrically insulates all portions of the elongated members disposed between the movable sleeve and the handle when the movable sleeve is extended distally.

10. The screwdriver of claim 9 wherein the at least one retaining member prevents the movable sleeve from distally extending a particular distance away from the handle.

11. The screwdriver of claim 9 wherein the at least one retaining member includes two retaining ridges, one retaining ridge is positioned on the movable sleeve and another retaining ridge is positioned on the handle, and wherein the retaining ridges abut one another when the movable sleeve is extended away from the handle a particular distance.

12. The screwdriver of claim 9 wherein the handle includes a hollow cavity with a tapered entrance, and wherein the at least one retaining member includes a recessable portion and a retaining ridge, and wherein the recessable portion is shaped to pass through the tapered entrance and move within the hollow cavity, and wherein the retaining ridge is shaped to be obstructed by the tapered entrance but be able to move within the hollow cavity.

13. The screwdriver of claim 9 wherein the screwdriver is useful for high voltage applications.

14. The screwdriver of claim 9 wherein the combined drive tip forms a straight-slot screwdriver drive tip when the sleeve is retracted against the handle.

15. The screwdriver of claim 9 wherein the elongated members are welded together at their proximal ends within the handle.

16. A screwdriver comprising:

a handle having a hollow cavity and a tapered opening;

a pair of elongated members having a proximal and distal end, wherein the elongated members are coupled together at their proximal ends within the handle, and wherein the distal ends include a drive tip;

a movable sleeve disposed over the elongated members such that when the sleeve is retracted proximally, the drive tips on the elongated members separate from one another and when the movable sleeve is extended distally, the drive tips on the elongated members join together; and

at least one retaining member coupled to the movable sleeve, wherein the at least one retaining member includes a recessable portion and a retaining ridge, and wherein the recessable portion is shaped to pass through the tapered entrance and move within the hollow cavity, and wherein the retaining ridge is shaped to be obstructed by the tapered entrance but be able to move within the hollow cavity.

17. The screwdriver of claim 16 wherein the at least one retaining member electrically insulates all portions of the elongated members disposed between the movable sleeve and the handle when the movable sleeve is extended distally.

18. The screwdriver of claim 16 wherein the at least one retaining member prevents the movable sleeve from distally extending a particular distance away from the handle.

19. The screwdriver of claim 16 wherein one of the at least one retaining member remains within the hollow cavity of the handle when the movable sleeve is retracted proximally and extended distally.

20. The screwdriver of claim 16 wherein the screwdriver is useful for high voltage applications.

21. The screwdriver of claim 16 wherein the combined drive tip forms a flat head screwdriver drive tip when the sleeve is retracted against the handle.

22. The screwdriver of claim 16 wherein the elongated members are welded together at their proximal ends within the handle.

23. A screwdriver, comprising:
a handle;
a pair of elongated members, each member having a proximal end, a middle section, and a distal end, the respective proximal ends being held by the handle, the respective distal ends combining to form a drive tip;
a sleeve disposed over the elongated members wherein movement of the sleeve causes the distal ends to move relative to each other, the sleeve being of sufficient length to cover the middle sections of the elongated members irrespective of the position of the sleeve.